

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 100402Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2195

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 0159

HONG KONG FOR RSS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR PINS MY

SUBJ: INTERNAL POLITICAL NOTES: HARUN CASE, RESTIVENESS OF  
COALITION PARTNERS, INCREASE IN POLICE MANPOWER, NARCOTICS

REF: 75 KUALA LUMPUR 7416 (DTG 190913Z DEC 75)

1. HARUN CASE. SULTAN OF SELANGOR GRANTED CHIEF MINISTER  
DATUK HARUN IDRIS ADDITIONAL MONTH'S LEAVE EFFECTIVE JAN 7,  
OSTENSIBLY TO ENABLE POWERFUL UMNO FIGURE TIME TO PREPARE HIS  
DEFENSE IN PENDING COURT ACTION AGAINST HIM ON MULTIPLE CHARGES  
OF CORRUPTION AND OTHER ABUSES OF HIS OFFICIAL AND PARTY  
POSITIONS. RATHER THAN CONSULTING LAW VOLUMES, HARUN HAS  
BEEN STUMPING UP AND DOWN WEST COAST OF MALAYSIA  
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APPEALING FOR SUPPORT FROM RANK AND FILE OF UMNO AND UMNO

YOUTH. MEANWHILE, PRO-HARUN "PELITA RAKYAT" ("PEOPLES' TORCH"), OFFICIAL WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF 4-B MASS YOUTH ORGANIZATION (AKIN SOMEWHAT TO 4-H IN US) SO FAR HAS FAILED TO RECEIVE LICENSE TO PUBLISH FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1976. ALTHOUGH HARUN APPEARS TO BE HAVING SOME IMPACT IN RALLYING HIS SUPPORTERS, SOME CONTEND CONTINUED ABSENCE FROM CHIEF MINISTERIAL POSITION WILL ERODE HIS INFLUENCE. WE HAVE IMPRESSION HOWEVER THAT HARUN HAS IMPROVED HIS SITUATION SOMEWHAT DURING PRIME MINISTER RAZAK'S CURRENT ABSENCE ON R&R TRIP TO EUROPE.

2. RESTIVENESS OF COALITION PARTNER. NUMEROUS ARTICLES HAVE APPEARED LATELY, ESPECIALLY IN MALAY LANGUAGE PRESS, CITING DISAFFECTION AT STATE LEVEL (NOTABLY PERAK) BETWEEN DOMINANT UMNO PARTY AND ITS RIGHT-WING MALAY PARTNER IN RULING COALITION, PAN-MALAYSIAN ISLAMIC PARTY (PMIP OR PAS). PRINCIPAL GRIPE SEEMS TO BE A "LEFT-OUT" FEELING BY PMIP STALWARTS IN TERMS OF TANGIBLE BENEFITS FROM PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL FRONT COALITION. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT PMIP LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN EFFECTIVELY CO-OPTED BY UMNO DOMINATED GOVERNMENT VIA APPOINTMENT OF KEY PMIP FIGURES TO GOVERNMENT POSITIONS (NOTABLY PMIP PRESIDENT DATUK MOHAMAD ASRI, CURRENTLY MINISTER OF LANDS, MINES, AND SPECIAL FUNCTIONS FOR RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS, AS WELL AS TWO DEPUTY MINISTERS AND A PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY), MAJOR IMPONDERABLE IS EFFECT OF HARUN AFFAIR ON NATIONAL FRONT COALITION, AS A SPLIT IN UMNO MIGHT CALL INTO QUESTION BASIC TERMS OF PMIP-UMNO COALITION OR PROMPT SOME PMIP ELEMENTS TO BOLT COALITION IN FAVOR OF SOME FORM OF ALLIANCE WITH UMNO DISSIDENTS. ALTHOUGH PMIP HAS ONLY 13 SEATS IN 154 MEMBER PARLIAMENT, IT DOMINATES KELANTAN STATE GOVERNMENT AND IS STRONG IN STATES OF KEDAH AND PERLIS.

3. INCREASE IN POLICE MANPOWER. ON DEC 31 INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE (IGP) DATO SRI HANIFF OMAR ANNOUNCED POLICE FORCES WOULD BE EXPANDED BY ADDITIONAL 27 THOUSAND FROM CURRENT LEVEL OF ABOUT 40 THOUSAND, IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO CURRENT SECURITY THREAT. NOTING THAT "THERE WERE 110 THOUSAND MEN IN THE FORCE DURING THE LAST EMERGENCY," IGP INDICATED THERE WOULD BE MAJOR EXPANSION OF POLICE

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TRAINING PROGRAM TO ACCOMMODATE INCREASED NEEDS. FOR EXAMPLE, GOAL CITED FOR ONE POLICE FIELD FORCE (PFF) TRAINING FACILITY IS TO INCREASE OUTPUT OF TRAINED PERSONNEL TO FIVE THOUSAND EVERY SIX MONTHS. POLICE ALSO WOULD SEEK TO RECRUIT EX-SERVICEMEN ON GROUNDS THEY POSSESS VALUABLE EXPERIENCE IN SECURITY AFFAIRS AND HENCE WOULD BE EASIER TO TRAIN.

4. NARCOTICS ARRESTS. HOME MINISTER GHAZALI SHAFIE THIS WEEK ANNOUNCED THAT POLICE HAVE ARRESTED 76 MEMBERS OF AT LEAST FIVE DRUG TRAFFICKING SYNDICATES SINCE LAST MARCH AS PART OF ALL-OUT CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFICKERS. CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU ANNOUNCED THAT DRUG TRAFFICKING IN NORTH PENINSULAR MALAYSIA HAS BEEN HALVED OVER PAST YEAR, LARGELY AS RESULT OF INCREASED NUMBER OF TIP-OFFS BY PUBLIC. GOM ALSO RELEASED FIGURES ON NUMBERS OF DRUG SAMPLES ANALYZED BY CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT WHICH REFLECT BOTH INCREASED DRUG TAKING AND INCREASED SEIZURES BY AUTHORITIES.

5. PRIME MINISTER'S RETURN. WELL INFORMED LOCAL POLITICIAN TOLD EMBOFFS JAN 9 TUN RAZAK WILL BE RETURNING FROM LONDON JAN 14. SOURCE SAID PM HAS COMPLETELY RECOVERED AND IS IN FACT RETURNING EARLIER THAN ORIGINALLY PLANNED.  
UNDERHILL

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